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Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.27/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.27/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene, beginning in 2019, with a view to making the United Nations negotiation process on security in the use of information and communications technologies more democratic, inclusive and transparent, an open-ended working group acting on a consensus basis, to continue, as a priority, to further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States listed in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, and the ways for their implementation; if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour; to study the possibility of establishing regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations; and to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as confidence-building measures and capacity-building and the concepts referred to in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, and to submit a report on the results of the study to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, and to provide the possibility of holding, from within voluntary contributions, intersessional consultative meetings with the interested parties, namely business, non-governmental

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organizations and academia, to share views on the issues within the group's mandate; and

(b) Also decide that the open-ended working group shall hold its organizational session in June 2019 in order to agree on the organizational arrangements connected with the group.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and programme 3, Disarmament, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1) and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 2), and A/72/6 (Sect. 4) and A/72/6 (Sect. 4)/Corr.1, respectively).

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution, the following meetings would be held in New York by an open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security: (a) a two-day organizational session in June 2019 consisting of four meetings with interpretation in all six languages; (b) a five-day substantive session in 2019 consisting of 10 meetings with interpretation in all six language; and (c) two five-day substantive sessions in 2020 consisting of 20 meetings with interpretation in all six languages. These would constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2019 and 2020 and would entail additional requirements in 2019 and 2020 for meetings services in the amount of $107,800 and $168,000, respectively.

4. Furthermore, the request for documentation contained in operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. For the organizational session in 2019, there would be three pre-session documents (total of 14,500 words) in all six official languages. For the open-ended working group session in 2019, there would be four pre-session documents (6,000 words), three in-session documents (6,000 words) and one post-session document (6,000 words) in the six official languages. For the open-ended working group sessions in 2020, there would be 18 pre-session documents (36,000 words) and two post-session documents (18,500 words) in the six official languages. These would entail additional resource requirements for documentation services in the amounts of $97,200 in 2019 and $175,200 in 2020.

5. With regard to the intersessional consultative meetings with the interested parties, as contained in operative paragraph 5, conference services would be provided if sufficient extrabudgetary resources were secured and if capacity allowed.

IV. Modifications required in the programme of work and the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

6. To meet the provisions of the draft resolution, the outputs under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 would need to be amended in respect of the information and outreach activities during the implementation of the budget, as follows:

Paragraph 4.60

In table 4.22, under "Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)", add:

"Open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Substantive servicing of meetings:

13. Organizational session (4)

14. Substantive session (10)

Parliamentary documentation:

15. Pre-session documents (7)

16. In-session documents (3)

17. Post-session documents (1)"

V. Financial implications of the proposals

A. Conference-servicing requirements

7. Additional non-recurrent resource requirements in the amount of $205,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to implement the additional workload.

8. Additional non-recurrent requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, in the amount of $343,200 in support of the meetings and a report in 2020 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020.

9. Details of the additional non-recurrent, conference-servicing resource requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1
Additional requirements for the biennium 2018–2019 and for 2020

(United States dollars)

	2019	*2020*	*Total*
Simultaneous interpretation	107 800	168 000	275 800
Pre-session documentation	58 900	118 800	177 700
In-session documentation	19 800	–	19 800
Post-session documentation	18 500	56 400	74 900
Total	**205 000**	**343 200**	**548 200**

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

10. It is estimated that a total non-recurrent amount of $17,300 would be required to cover the costs of the services and related travel of a consultant to provide technical and substantive support to the Office for Disarmament Affairs in connection with the preparations for, and substantive servicing of, the work of the working group, as well as the two-day organizational session in 2019.

11. Additional non-recurrent consultancy requirements for the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the amount of $37,600 in support of the work of the working group for 2020 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020.

12. Details of the additional non-recurrent, non-conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 2.

Table 2
Additional requirements for the biennium 2018–2019 and for 2020
(United States dollars)

	2019	*2020*	*Total*
Consultants (fees and travel)	17 300	37 600	54 900
Total	**17 300**	**37 600**	**54 900**

VI. Summary of resource implications

13. A summary of the additional non-recurrent requirements for the biennium 2018–2019 and for 2020 is provided in table 3.

Table 3
Summary of additional non-recurrent resource requirements
(United States dollars)

Budget section	*2019*	*2020*	*Total*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	205 000	343 200	548 200
Section 4, Disarmament	17 300	37 600	54 900
Total	**222 300**	**380 800**	**603 100**

VII. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

14. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested in operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution. At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary for the additional resource requirements in the amount of $222,300 to be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

VIII. Contingency fund

15. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

IX. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

16. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.27/Rev.1, additional resource requirements in the amount of $222,300 for 2019 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, including $205,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $17,300 under section 4, Disarmament. The amount of $222,300 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**

17. **Additional requirements in the amount of $380,800, as set out in table 3, in support of sessions and activities of the working group in 2020 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020.**